

# THE RASTRICK READ



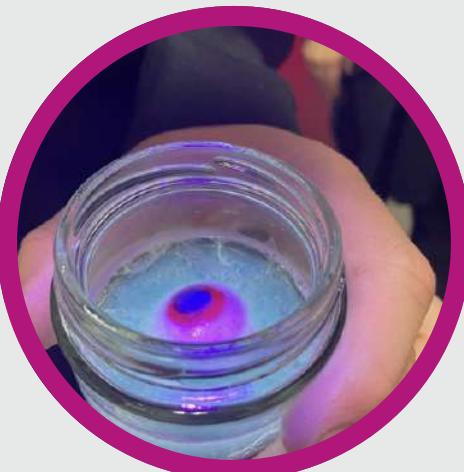
Autumn 2025



Rastrick Enrichment

Creativity at Rastrick High School

Festive Inspiration



ENRICHMENT SPOTLIGHT, OPENING EVENING, SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS.





# Rastrick High School

The school magazine launched in September 2022 as part of our extensive enrichment programme. With a new team of contributors, the magazine continues to grow with each issue.

Led by Miss Peel, students have been working on a wide range of content from school life articles to quizzes and puzzles. The group have researched, planned, interviewed, reported and created all the content in the magazine, forming another fantastic issue.

The platform not only allows our students to articulate their interests and give them a leading role in sharing their fantastic work with both peers and a wider audience but is also gives our students a chance to share the fantastic opportunities available to them at Rastrick High School .

## WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL MAGAZINE



# Autumn 2025

04

## School Life

What's been happening this term?

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## Seasonal inspiration

Fun activities you could do this Winter and  
upcoming events in the New Year!

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## Creativity at Rastrick

Celebrating creativity and highlighting other creative  
opportunities at Rastrick High School!

# Opening evening

By Yasmin Tai and Hannah Paget



This year, open evening was on Thursday the 20th of September from 5:30 pm to 8:00pm.

Both teachers and students took part in welcoming the next few years of RHS students to our school.

Each subject has its own activity for students to take part in. These included:

English: Tucked away in the English classrooms, the English department had a few rooms open to showcase their exciting curriculum.



With one room dedicated to a murder mystery (inspired by the GCSE Edwardian novel *An Inspector Calls*), students had to investigate the murder of Miss Peel by finding the location, the weapon AND the murderer! Rewarded with pride (and sweets) all students walked away feeling accomplished.



The second room was dedicated to the gothic theme explored in the novella- *The Woman In Black*.



The third and final room showcased all of our students amazing work!



**Music:** To open the head teacher's speech a choir performance took place. Choir were singing 'What was I made for?' and 'Someone you loved' and the performance lasted about 10 minutes.

For the entirety of open evening, Percussion Ensemble held an open rehearsal in M1. Songs such as Clocks, A.G.M and Fox's 20th Century theme were played.

**Textiles:** In textiles, anyone who came in would be offered the opportunity to mono print onto fabric that was pinned onto a dress and displayed for the rest of the evening. It is now in the textiles classroom.

**Wood Tech:** making keyrings with stamps and coloured pens.

In art classrooms, anyone who came in was invited to take part in self-portraits, still life painting, timed drawing and etc.



**Maths:** In the maths department, there was a chain of puzzles threading between the math classrooms, and if you completed all of the tasks correctly you could solve the case and redeem a prize.



**Science:** In biology, they were dissecting frogs, in chemistry they were lighting Bunsen burners and they were putting bubbles on the roof.



**MFL:** In MFL they provided traditional dishes and made guests order their food in the language it originated from, showed off the LANGUAGENUT app and made a cake table.

# Bradley Woods

By Ellie-Jayne Broadbent and Senna Stott

## Why do people go to Bradley woods?

People go to Bradley woods to have a good time. Bradley woods provide social time (Free time) and it provides fun for children aged 4-22 years old.

## What activities are there at Bradley Woods?

Some of the activities at Bradley Woods are:

- Axe Throwing
- Cave Bus
- High Ropes
- Team building
- Crate stacking
- Rock climbing.

The cave bus is like a run-down bus which has been renovated into cave. You go in and put a helmet on, which has a light. You then go through tight spaces, and you go up, down and round corners. There are even some slides!



## What to pack

During night, it gets cold. So, you obviously need:

- A winter sleeping bag
- Towel
- Pajamas
- Toiletries.
- Water bottle
- A couple of changes of clothes

# Bradley Woods



## Extra information with the trip

At Bradley woods, they provide you with good food for free and big areas for breaks in between activities. Bradley woods are only 12.1 kilometres away and you walk. You get put into rooms of 8, 6 or 4 [with people you choose]. The rooms are good quality with soft mattresses on the bed frames. There are different buildings for females and males to sleep in. There is also a gift shop with good sweets and there is also staff, who are very nice and polite, to guide you every step of the way on your trip.

# Dance Club

By Hannah Paget



This term, Mr. Hampson has organised a dance club (in partnership with studio 59) for the avid dancers of our school. Dance club is held on a Monday with a group of dancers who are all experienced and talented. They all went through a tough audition process to get to this spot and are working hard to keep their place.



## STUDIO 59:

Studio 59 are a dance company based in Halifax who have come to Rastrick to host a club for eager dancers. Studio 59 offers several dance classes, including hip-hop, ballet, musical theatre and more. Above all, their classes strive to increase confidence, physical fitness, work ethic, cognitive function and mental wellbeing. Their teachers invest lots of time in their choreography and have trained at some of the best dance schools in

Yorkshire.

## WHY DANCE?

Dance is beneficial for several reasons, including:

### MENTAL HEALTH:

Scientific research has proven that exercise (including dance) can boost your endorphins and make you happier.

### PHYSICAL HEALTH:

Dancing benefits cardiovascular health, flexibility, balance and stamina.

### COGNITIVE FUNCTION:

Dance has been proven to help adults and children with their cognitive function, including higher scores on tests and better balance and coordination.



## Shakespeare club

By Elliot Fullwood

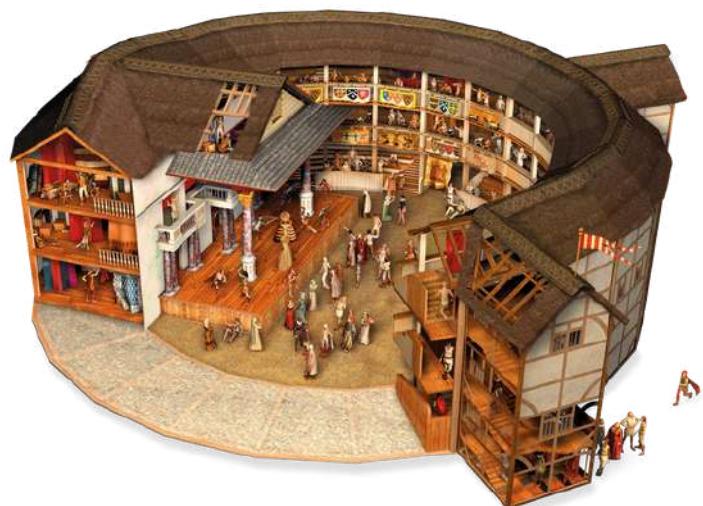


Recently, a club has been created called Shakespeare club! In this article we will be going through everything you need to know about this amazing club. If you like what you hear you, you could sign up?

### What do you do at Shakespeare club?

At Shakespeare club you first learn and pick a scene, monologue, or duologue, from one of his plays and practice it until perfect.

After it is perfect you will compete in the internal competition which is the club performing to some teachers who will decide who gets to proceed to the regional heat. This is a little bit harder to pass but if you do, you will advance to the regional heat which is against other schools. Then, finally if you get all the way to the end, you will compete at THE GLOBE!



### What are the benefits of going to Shakespeare?

One of the many benefits of going to Shakespeare club is that you will learn life lessons such as learning how we should treat others and what is morally right. Another thing that is a benefit of going to Shakespeare club is that every time you go you will get an achievement point which gets celebrated at home. Finally, is that Mr Moriarty is super nice and will coach you all the way.



# Science

Every Monday, at 3:30 to 4:30, students gather round in SC2 (a classroom in science) to learn about the science behind our world, as well as other interesting facts and physics such as elephant toothpaste, which was one of the top three favoured experiments they have performed. These students have used this time to show off their skills and knowledge to their club leader, Miss Carney, and have learnt many new things!



We can see how much these students enjoy Science Club because of their joyous responses!

Another student informed: 'We used Bunsen Burners to turn grit (the material used for the roads when it gets icy) into pure salt! It was really fun.'



By Ellie Marsh and Martha Nuttall



One student stated: 'We put dishwasher liquid and food colouring in the elephant toothpaste, and I loved how the elephant toothpaste exploded!'

## Invisible Ink Practical

If you would like to do a practical at home just follow these simple steps to be able to do it.

Dip a cotton bud into lemon juice

Write a message on plain white paper with the cotton bud

Allow the writing to dry so it becomes invisible

You reveal the writing by heating the paper gently over a tea light but do not place the paper directly into the flame.

# ENRICHMENT SPOTLIGHT

## Music

By Hannah Paget and Tavleen Silva

The music department host 3 main concerts – Christmas concert, spring concert and music festival. The many ensembles give students an opportunity to express themselves freely and give them an opportunity to show their musical potential.

Choir do multiple concerts throughout the year. These include open evening, Christmas concert spring concert, singing sensations, junior and senior music festival. Within these choir perform multiple pieces throughout the night.



The music department host paid musical instrument lessons throughout the year. These include percussion, singing, flute, violin, piano, saxophone, guitar, clarinet, trumpet and etc. Ask a member of the music department for further info ask a parent to email a music teacher/your head of year.

In singing sensations, students get to wear their own clothes and can perform solo for friends and family with the teachers of the music department accompanying as a live band. The music festival is an event that takes place in school and pupils from all music categories perform either solo or in a group for the ensemble category. The junior music festival and the senior music festival are held on separate days and students get to miss lesson on the day they're performing.



Percussion ensemble take part in multiple performances over the academic year, including open evening, the Christmas Concert and the spring concert. They play a wide range of songs such as A.D.M, Fox's 20TH century and Clocks by Coldplay.

In Junior Band, they are currently playing Marys Boy Child and We wish you a merry Christmas. They take part in multiple concerts throughout the year, such as the Christmas concert and the spring Concert. Junior band consists of many different instruments who have all had lessons prior to joining.

## MAGAZINE CLUB

By Emillia Berry and Hannah Paget

We have our very own Rastrick Magazine club where we make articles about the events happening at our school now, we talk about school trips, stories and our amazing students that do their own clubs out of school. At Our club, we create magazines like the one you're reading today!

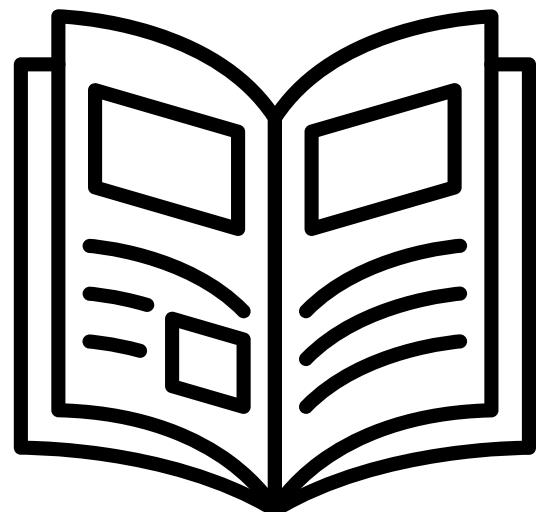
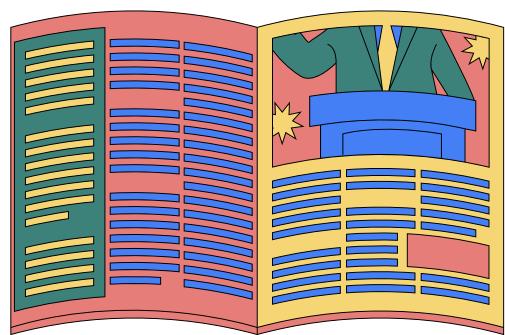
The first thing we do is figure out what our magazine is even about, the teacher who is in charge is Miss Peel and she writes everything on a whiteboard. We vote and decide together, so everyone gets to write about something they actually care about or what is going on at the school.

People go to magazine club to spend time with friends and to discuss and share topics they find appealing. For example, they have written articles such as the Rhaya the Rastrick rhino series and enrichment quizzes. Here are some people's views of magazine club:

Thomas Bales (8.4): I think that magazine club has helped me to share what I enjoy with the school.

Martha Nuttall (8:3): I think magazine club has allowed me to develop my passion for writing!

Emilia Berry (9:10): 'It allows me to express my creativity'.



# ENRICHMENT SPOTLIGHT

## Art club

By Thomas Bales

In the art department, there is currently an art club that has started in October (Monday, located in ad4). I would have taken part but i was too caught up in the magazine club to show up. You can sign up by just turning up and there is a range of things to do there. This year we will be using cardboard, glue and other materials to create model sea animals. I have already seen an example turtle while being told about the club by my art teacher towards the end of class/lesson.

There are 30 spaces and applications are open after the first half term so make sure to make it there quickly to secure a space! The club will be run by Miss Catton and the duration of the club will last from 15:30 to 16:30 and the theme changes every year. It is very fun because there is a different theme every year creating mystery for everyone and it's also a very social club so people can talk and meet new people.



Last year, we used clay to make a small army of men, putting them in the kiln and sticking them on the garden in the outdoor atrium, and lots of people attended the club and it was very successful.

# The Rastrick Reading Quest

## What is the Reading Quest?



*'Read so you never feel alone'*

The library holds an exciting quest open to all Rastrick Students who hope to enter a brand-new world of fun and adventure! It's an exciting opportunity to be introduced to tons of new books, genres, and authors who you will love. Available in the library is a huge range of books suited for the age of the reader, with careful thought into what the readers will enjoy.

*Reading allows us to expand our background knowledge, gives us a robust vocabulary, and can help improve our long-term memory.*

Furthermore, many young people learn their best through reading, so our Reading Quest empowers many to be able to learn in their own way. We have the Reading Quest in place to allow every one of our students to have the chance to read books that they will love, with the opportunity of winning prizes. It is an amazing way to contribute yourself to school life and a perfect way to start your reading journey.

There are 2 different reading quests at Rastrick: one designated for Year 7 and 8, and one for Years 9,10 and 11. This year, we have expanded the opportunity to take part in the Quest by adding 20 new books to each Quest. This allows all Competitive readers to have a wide variety of 30 books to choose from.



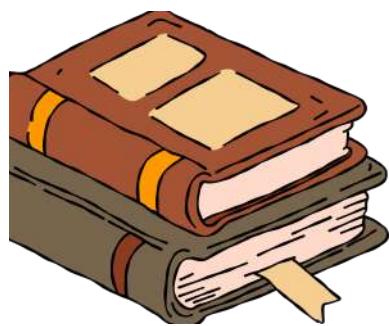
# How do you take part in the Reading Quest?

Step 1: Taking part in the reading quest is incredibly simple! All you need to do is pick a book of your interest from the library and indulge yourself in your brand-new quest.

Step 2: Once you have finished the adventure, you need to complete an activity from the library desk. This can be: Writing a postcard about the book, designing a new bookmark and creating a new book cover.

Step 3: Then, you simply post your activity through a custom Reading Quest post box – and you are done! We also have badges available for the number of books you read. This includes Spartan, Olympian and Titan.

If you would like to introduce yourself to the books we have in the Quest, just make a quick stop at the library and familiarise yourself with all the new adventures waiting for you.





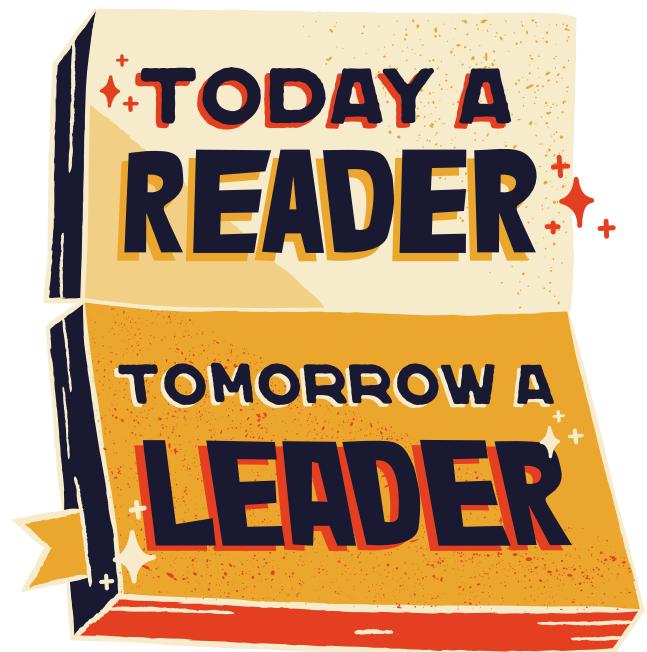
By Yasmin Tai

For the past two years, our school has had the opportunity to support our newer students with their reading abilities. This programme is held by a charity called Coram Beanstalk: Creating Readers since 1973.

The programme includes a Year 9/10 Reading Leader and a Year 7/8 Reading Partner, who both work collaboratively to improve the partners reading level and skill. We aim to boost confidence and skill within our partners, and boost their reading level by the end of our 10-week course

## How do you become Reading Leader?

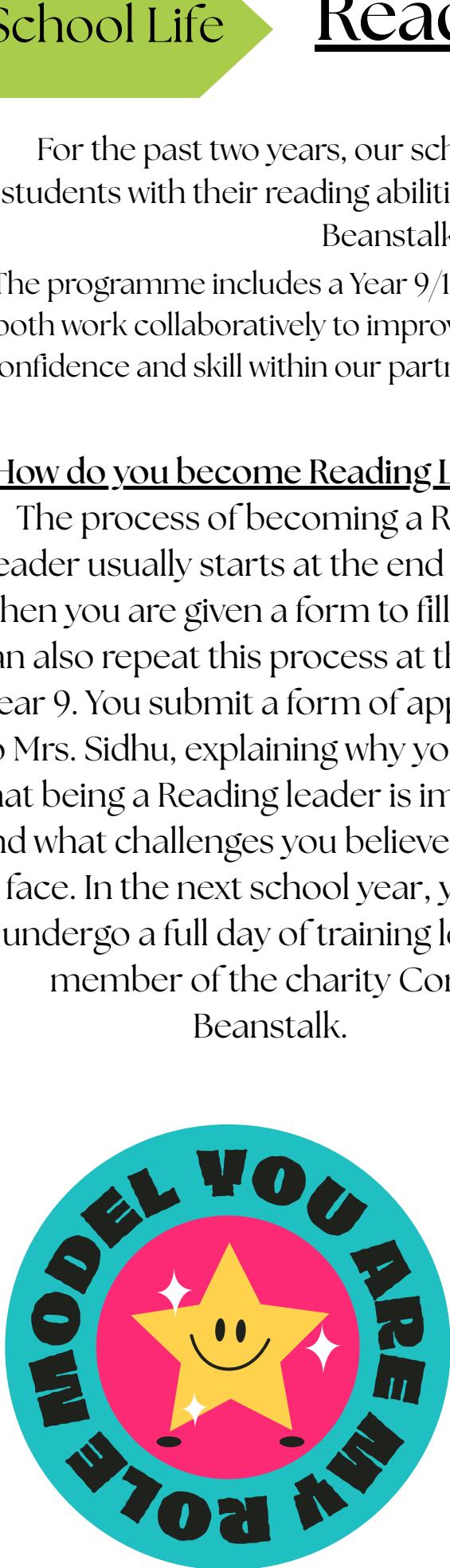
The process of becoming a Reader Leader usually starts at the end of Year 8 when you are given a form to fill out. You can also repeat this process at the end of year 9. You submit a form of application to Mrs. Sidhu, explaining why you believe that being a Reading leader is important, and what challenges you believe you may face. In the next school year, you will undergo a full day of training led by a member of the charity Coram Beanstalk.



## Why is being a Reader Leader a good idea?

Becoming a Reading Leader is a very fulfilling role to take on. You can support several students who may need the extra help and aid their academic progress. As

well as this, you will also have a very impressive extracurricular activity to place on your CV in year 10, which will help you in gaining employment and increase your chances of getting an interview and help in the placement process.



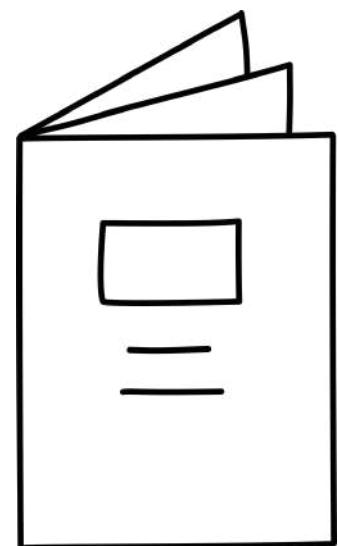
# Commonly asked questions.

## What does this training look like?

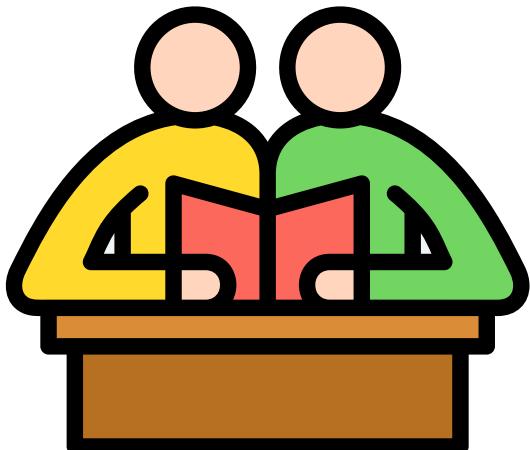
At the start of the day, the Reading Leader will go to the library and meet their trainer. They will introduce themselves to the rest of the leaders and get started.



During your training day, you will discuss what your sessions will look like, what your responsibilities as a Reading Leader are and how you will support your Reading Partner over the next 10 weeks.



You are also going to receive a tracking booklet that will help you throughout your time as a Reading Leader, which also included pages where you can record how your sessions have gone.



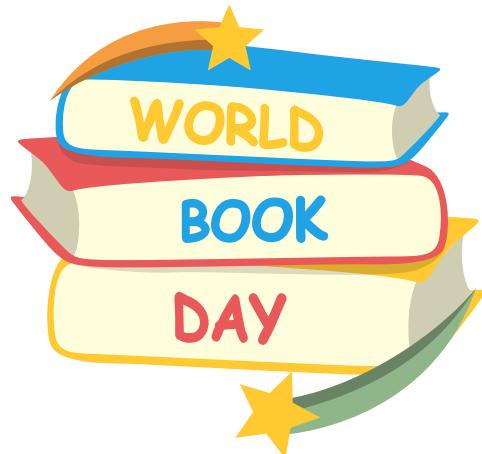
## What does a Reading Session look like?

Reading sessions usually take place during a Reading partner and Reading leaders' form time. We choose a book that suits the partners taste and use it to aid their reading development. When we read these books, we try to positively engage in 'Book Talk', a conversation that covers the details of the book, ensuring that the reader fully understands the book and its subject. We go through stages of the Leader reading, demonstrating reading techniques, and the partner reading, reflecting the techniques that have been shown to them.

# World Book Day.

By Emilia Berry

World Book Day celebrates the joy of books and reading. The goal is to encourage reading for pleasure, promote knowledge, and foster a love of books, especially among children, by providing book tokens and organising events. World Book Day is about bringing our literary heroes to life and celebrating their talents and beliefs.



In 2026 World Book day will be celebrated on the 5<sup>th</sup> March.



Last year Rastrick staff were able to dress up as different characters from their most beloved stories.

What do you think they should dress up as next year?

Please pass along any ideas to departments so they can prepare to inspire!

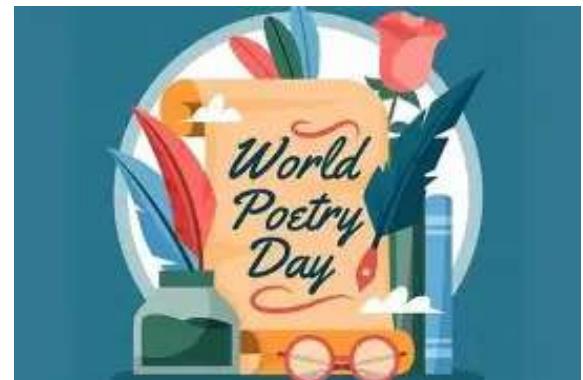


# National poetry day

By Aimee Everett

National Poetry Day is a British campaign to promote poetry, including public performances. Annually, on the first Thursday of October, events, readings, and performances take place across the UK. National Poetry Day was founded in 1994 by William Sieghart.

Since 1994 National Poetry Day has engaged millions of people with poetry through a range of live events and web-based activities for people throughout the country. Such a variety of poetry is written and read that each year the day is given a new theme, to highlight poets and styles of poetry.



The countdown continues – just 1 week ...It is a chance for all of us to share in the pleasure of poetry. You will see it everywhere, from schools and libraries to cultural venues and across the national media. With 1.5 million people participating on the day, there is loads of ways to get involved!

Aiming to inspire a love of poetry, this annual event provides a fantastic opportunity to explore and celebrate poetry. From engaging with familiar poems we love, to the creative fulfilment of new crafting works, we are providing inspiration and accessible activities for all ages to use in your school or setting.



The competition offers a prize of £5,000, £3,000 and £2,000 for outstanding unpublished poems.

# Next up at Rastrick High School

By Ellie- Jayne Broadbent

## Christmas Concert

On the last Monday of the first half Term, there is going to be a Christmas concert!

It will include:

- JR Choir
- Sr Choir
- Concert Band
- JR Band
- Flute Ensemble
- Brass Ensemble
- Percussion Ensemble
- Clarinet Choir



In March, there is going to be a Rastrick Showcase held in the main hall!

In Rastrick Showcase, last year, we had all sorts: scenes of plays, motorbikes, gymnastic, ice skating ect. What we haven't had: Jugglers, comedians, football (for this, you could do tricks) ect. Although, you can do whatever you like- even be backstage! All of this is optional- you don't have to do it if you don't want to.

It was a great success last year so be quick to secure your tickets!



# Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award ("DofE") is a youth development program, not a single trip, that helps young people aged 14-24 achieve personal growth through in four key areas: Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and Expedition. The program has three progressive levels (Bronze, Silver, and Gold), with the expedition being an adventurous journey on foot, bicycle, or other modes of travel, which requires participants to be self-sufficient and demonstrate teamwork.

**Duke Of  
Edinburgh  
Award**



By Aimee Everett



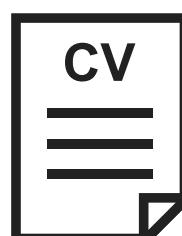
## What do the DofE Award involves:

Volunteering - Giving time to help the community or environment.

Physical - Taking part in a sport or other physical activity to improve fitness.

Skills: Learning or developing a new personal, practical, or creative skill e.g. lighting a fire.

Expedition: Planning, training for, and undertaking a journey in the countryside or an unfamiliar environment, usually involving walking, cycling, or kayaking



## There are three different awards:

Bronze-The entry-level award, for which young people typically start by school year 9.

Silver-A step up from Bronze, requiring more time and a greater level of commitment.

Gold-The highest level, which includes an additional Residential section and demands greater independence and challenge.



## Benefits of doing the duke of Edinburgh:

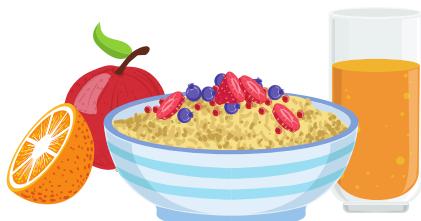
Independence and self-confidence.  
Life skills.

New experiences.  
CV and UCAS points.

# GETTING EXAM READY

By Almira Rafiq

## The morning of...



On the morning of your exam make sure you have a good breakfast. Having a good breakfast will make you ready and confident for the day ahead. Even if you don't feel like anything, just eat something small and remember IT'S JUST, NERVES AND FOOD IS FUEL!



## What will you need to pack

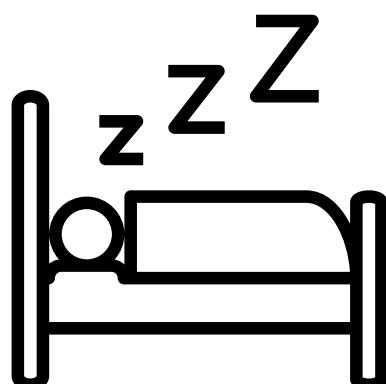
Remember you need to bring all your stationary so don't forget anything. It probably might be best to pack everything the night before and if you don't have some of the things, go to a nearby shop and buy your things.



## Revision

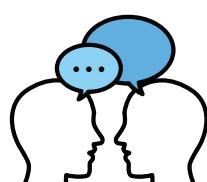
Make sure to revise at home if you want to get good marks and maybe ask a parent or an older sibling to quiz you which will help you even more!

A good night sleep  
If you have a good night sleep, you will feel less tired and more prepared. Don't stay on your phone before you sleep because your brain won't function properly instead don't have any screen time about 15-20 minutes before bed.



## Get help!

If you are struggling with a topic, don't be afraid to tell an adult or a teacher so they can help you.

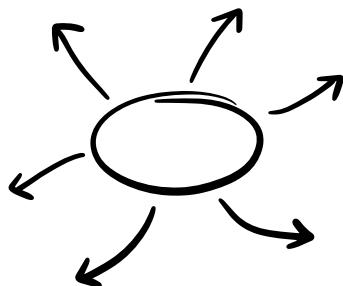


# Different ways to revise

By Yasmin Tai

With Assessments and Exams coming up, revising is extremely important. Knowing effective ways of revising can significantly improve the outcome of your exams. Here are some effective ways to revise for your exams:

Flashcards – A very common revision technique, flashcards are a powerful revision technique which help with enhancing learning and retention. When used correctly, they help with active recall, spaced repetition and immediate feedback. Some of the best subjects in which flashcards can aid are Languages, Science, Mathematics (formulas and equations)



Mind Maps – Mind Maps are very effective for learning as they can help you to understand what your strengths and weaknesses are. Mind maps work well because you make them yourself which you're more likely to remember them. Further Benefits of Mind Maps are Problem solving, decoding complex ideas and easier engagement. The best subjects to use mind maps for are: English Literature, History and Geography.

Cornell Notes - Corenll Notes are another structured note taking system designed to help organise notes and review them effectively. The Three sections of a Cornell Note Page are: A Cue-Column, for key words and questions. Note-Taking Section, for more detailed notes, and a Summary Section at the bottom essential for summarising your main ideas. This section enhances comprehension and retention for information. Some of the best subjects to practice Cornell notes are Science, Maths, History, English Lit and social Studies.



Past Papers – Most effective for GCSE Students, Past papers are a great way for revision. They not only improve your knowledge of the content, but they also boost your exam technique, too. Exam technique is essential for any student, as without it you could lose a lot of marks. Further Benefits of revising with Past Papers are improved time management, confidence boost and an enhanced understanding. Past Papers are effective for every single subject, as you can gain exam techniques for every exam board.

# Ramadan 2026

By Nuriya Choudhury

## What is Ramadan and what does it mean?

Muslims have a lunar calendar with 12 months, and the 10th month is Ramadan. To be considered Muslim you must follow the five pillars of Islam, this includes fasting during Ramadan.

The length of Ramadan is either 29 or 30 days depending on the phase of the moon. Muslims are supposed to fast (not drink any water or eat any food) from sunrise to sunset.



## Does everyone have to fast?

Not everyone has to fast during Ramadan.

Children do not fast.

Pregnant women do not fast.  
Elderly people should not fast.  
Chronically ill people should not fast.

## Why do Muslims fast?

Sympathy for those who do not have the luxury of food every day  
To feel closer to Allah (God) –  
Ramadan is a month of prayer  
Health benefits

## Some people have days where they cannot fast for example:

Menstruating women

Sick people

Traveling people

And for these people, they will usually re-fast the days they missed after Ramadan is over: people who cannot fast donate to charity every day that they did not fast, the charity amount is usually enough to cover a meal for someone else.

## Eid

At the end of Ramadan Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr, translating to: 'Festival of Breaking the Fast' this is celebrated through feasts, gifts, prayer and time with family and friends

# Remembrance Day

By Martha Nuttall

On the 11th of November every year, we take a couple minutes of silence to remember those we lost in World War I. Remembrance Day honours the lives of the soldiers who sacrificed themselves for our country in all conflicts and the protection of freedom and the way of life. To do this, we wear red poppies to symbolise the poppy field that grew after World War I which reminds us of the service that the armed forces provided.



We take this time to wear red poppies which symbolise resilience and flourishing, recognising the soldiers' courage to keep fighting, mental growth throughout the period and how poppies bloomed in abundance despite the battle-torn fields. It also shows the symbolic connection of the poppies' resilience and beauty amidst the death and destruction, which is why they are associated with the soldiers that died there.



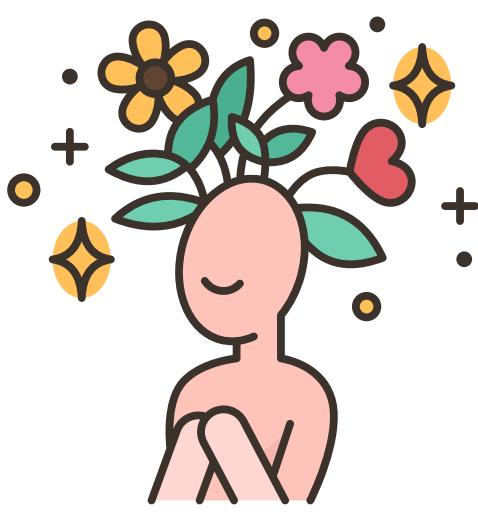
There are also purple poppies which symbolise the sacrifice of work animals such as horses, dogs and other animals of which also helped in the wartime. This is worn to ensure that their contribution to the conflicts is not forgotten.



At 11 a.m, every year, a moment of silence happens globally, where everyone remains quiet for two minutes. This happens to remember the soldiers who died on the battlefield and to mark the precise moment of when World War I ended in 1918. It serves as a moment of reflection and gratitude and it is important we refrain from talking during this time as it is to honour those who died for us.

## DAY By Martha Nuttall

World Kindness Day will be celebrated all around the world on November 13th, 2025. First introduced in 1998, World Kindness Day offers a chance to highlight and point out good deeds that people have done in the community, as well as encourage more people to do the same. The act was launched to 'inspire individuals and connect nations to create a kinder world.'



There are many ways to celebrate World Kindness Day, such as helping a neighbour, supporting local business, buying food and hosting a dinner at your house and so much more. You could also hang out with friends, family and pets. You could also decorate 'kindness rocks' and 'kindness jars' put them up around your house to inform everyone about the event.

Did you know that when you engage in random acts of kindness, your body produces endorphins – the brain's natural painkiller! Perpetually kind people have 23% less cortisol (the stress hormone) and age two times slower than the average population! In short, watching the positive impact of giving on the lives of others can inflict contagious feelings of joy!

To summarise, we should all do good deeds in our lives. Even though it may seem 'pointless' or 'unneeded', society and life itself would be so much greater if we all did an act of kindness. No matter how big, or how small, this act of kindness is, it still contributes to making the world a better place.

And it starts with us.

# DAY OF THE DEAD

On the 2nd of November, a tradition with Aztec roots occurs every year. The Day Of The Dead originates from Mexico, where the citizens honour and remember their deceased loved ones, and celebrate the soul's journey to the afterlife or heaven itself. They believe that on this day, the souls return to the living and reunite with the family for the day.



The Day Of The Dead (Dia de los Muertos) is a lively, colourful celebration. People wear decorated sugar skull masks in many different colours or paint their face to match the appearance of a skeleton. They also dress up like skeletons, and they are called 'Catrinas' for girls and women and 'Catrines' for boys and men. It is also possible for them to wear colourful dresses or suits.

By Martha Nuttal



On this day, the family of the loved one creates homemade alters for the lost soul, decorating it with natural elements such as water and nature, as well as candles, photos of the deceased and their favourite foods and drink to welcome them back to Earth.

Decorated sugar skulls, also known as 'calaveras de azucar' are a traditional element that are also found on alters, symbolising the sweetness of life and death. There is also the bright petals of a marigold, a native Mexican flower, which are used to create a pathway leading from the gravesite to the family's ofrenda, guiding the spirits back home.



# Trick or Treat

By Siyana Choudry

## What is the history behind it?

The celebration of Halloween originated with ancient Celtic festivals. It is held on the 31st of October. A bit like the day of the dead (a celebration in Mexico) it is also used as a way to remember those who have passed. This specific day is said to have been the day that the barrier between the living and dead has weakened. People who celebrated the tradition would dress themselves as supposed monsters to ward off spirits of the dead.



## Why do we get sweets?

I have already said that the tradition is derived from Celtic and pagan practices. People like today would dress up and offer each other food because it was believed that it would appease the spirits that roamed the earth that day. It then turned into the tradition "trick or treat".

## What is the most popular Halloween costume?

 Ghosts

Witches

Vampires or tv show characters  
Skeletons or superhero's



# SPOOKY SEASON

By Ellie Marsh

Every year for Halloween people dress up and collect sweets by partaking in 'trick or treating'.

Lets see what the top five most popular costumes were this year!

## Scream



In 5<sup>th</sup> place is the Ghost face costume from the 1997 Scream movie.

In 4<sup>th</sup> place is the KPOP Demon Hunters from the hit Netflix TV show.

## Kpop demon hunters



## Wednesday Addams



In 3<sup>rd</sup> place is Wednesday Addams from the Netflix TV show.

In 2<sup>nd</sup> place is the good witch and bad witch from the hit movie/musical Wicked.

## Elphaba and Glinda



## Labubus



In 1<sup>st</sup> place are Labubus, inspired by the collective toys that are selling out all over the world!



# SPARKS FLY



Bonfire night is celebrated on November 5th every year. We celebrate this to commemorate the failure of the gunpowder plot. We have a bonfire every year to show when Guy Fawkes was burned for being behind the plot and to celebrate the King's survival. Some people attend firework displays, use sparklers and enjoy eating traditional foods such as toffee apples, baked potatoes and hot dogs on this wonderful night.

By Ellie Marsh

## Events in or near Huddersfield:

Croslan Hill Bonfire: An event organized by the Huddersfield Round Table

Woodlands Cricket Club: Hosting a Bonfire & Firework Night on Saturday, November 1st

Scholes Cricket Club: Another event on Saturday, November 1st, featuring a Bonfire & Firework Display.

Dudley Hill Rugby Club: A Bonfire Extravaganza is scheduled for Friday, November 7th



## How to stay safe on bonfire night

Never go back to a lit firework and keep a bucket of water nearby  
Wear gloves when handling sparklers and put them in cold water once finished with

Do not wave sparklers near anyone else and do not run whilst holding them  
Keep a safe distance from bonfires to make sure you don't injure yourself  
Follow the law and do not set fireworks off between 11:00pm and 7:00am  
Keep fireworks in a closed box when they are not being used  
Always follow instructions

# What Autumn means to me.

By Siyana Choudry



Autumn to many seems to be about silent beauty and gentle change. In autumn the world seems to slow down inviting me to breathe a little deeper and to notice smaller parts of life.

Autumn reminds of a cycle, of letting go and then beginning again. The leaves falling aren't just an ending, they are a new promise that life will return.

Its reminiscent of human life. How growth often means releasing what no longer serves you, and how endings can be beautiful.

There's a warmth in autumn, that doesn't always come from sweaters, or decorative mugs, - but comes from a place of content and of finding peace in simple moments. Autumn can be transcribed as anything you desire; if you just look at it the right way.





# Seasonal Bucket list

By Ellie-Jayne Broadbent

As the air turns crisp and the leaves paint the world, autumn invites us to slow down and savour its cozy magic. It's the season of warm drinks, golden walks, and moments that feel like poetry.

Whether you're chasing pumpkin spice or crunching through forest trails, this bucket list is your guide to making the most of fall's fleeting beauty. Let's dive into the simple joys and unforgettable adventures that make autumn truly enchanting.

## What could you do for an autumn bucket list?

### Pumpkin Carving

Visit a pumpkin patch

Go on a hike

Have a fall picnic

Decorate for Halloween

Bake Halloween cookies

Bake Halloween brownies

Bake Halloween flapjacks

Bake Halloween cupcakes



Host a bonfire

Have a pumpkin spice latte

Go for a walk

Make apple pie

Cosy up with a book

Diy some fall décor

Decorate with fall colours

Visit a haunted house

Jump in a leaf pile

Autumn crafts

## How do other cultures enjoy Autumn?

Mid-autumn festival, also known as Mooncake Festival or Moon Festival, celebrated in China, on the full moon day – the 15th day of the eighth Lunar Month.

Traditionally, Chinese people will express gratitude to the moon and celebrate the bountiful harvest of their crops. It is also an occasion to pray for better luck and engage in moon gazing.



Harvest Festival is celebrated in Germany and is a traditional and modern religious festival to give thanks for the gifts of the harvest. It is celebrated on the first Sunday of October. Traditions include decorating churches with harvest bounty and holding community parades with decorated floats and music.



# Autumn Word Search

By Annie Norris

S	G	P	W	G	O	W	B	K	R	O	E	V	B	Q	G	J	H	K	D
G	W	G	S	V	H	O	I	Y	I	J	E	V	T	E	E	N	A	A	N
K	P	E	M	N	N	C	K	D	A	B	X	E	E	R	I	H	L	H	Y
P	O	C	E	F	C	K	S	M	L	Q	V	O	R	K	F	N	L	K	D
G	E	Q	I	T	I	R	S	N	L	F	E	Z	P	L	L	B	O	E	Z
F	Z	R	L	E	S	O	Z	C	E	H	M	M	Z	R	J	M	W	U	H
C	E	E	I	M	B	W	Y	X	A	V	U	F	D	N	P	A	E	O	L
W	H	M	O	N	A	E	C	Q	V	P	Z	K	Q	E	Q	G	E	F	V
M	H	O	G	M	T	R	S	I	E	U	G	N	Q	Y	Y	Q	N	R	Y
N	I	D	C	A	K	I	Q	O	S	C	A	N	D	L	E	C	E	E	Q
H	F	D	C	O	P	F	U	K	R	H	E	Y	T	X	K	O	V	E	O
H	C	T	I	W	L	X	M	Q	Y	U	F	U	O	Z	I	X	C	S	T
N	X	R	S	U	B	A	A	X	H	C	E	H	O	N	M	Z	V	N	B
R	W	L	G	O	A	O	T	M	J	Q	N	H	L	F	K	G	S	B	I
M	F	V	A	L	H	A	Y	E	B	K	G	F	U	R	K	G	D	B	D
T	Y	V	I	K	Z	G	X	O	P	R	N	Q	W	P	T	U	W	L	X
S	T	R	A	M	J	D	O	K	Q	B	E	H	V	F	V	T	M	B	S
Q	G	P	G	N	D	K	N	W	C	S	P	O	W	O	R	Q	M	F	W
C	W	U	P	M	D	L	N	U	E	H	V	Y	M	C	I	I	P	P	C
E	Y	W	O	M	C	H	N	A	Y	C	G	Z	X	C	U	S	T	R	Z

HALLOWEEN

BOOK

SWEETS

CANDLE

FIREWORK

LEAVES

WITCH

BONFIRE

PUMPKIN

GHOST CHOCOLATE

# Tis the season to go shopping!

By Daisy Gunton



Many people enjoy the Christmas Season. There is getting time off school, seeing family, the food and of course...PRESENTS!! But do you ever think, where do I buy all of these? If that is you then you are in luck,

I am going to give you many ideas on where you can buy your Christmas gifts this year or give you inspiration on what to ask for.

## Piece Hall:

The Book Corner – an independent Bookshop. Customers describe it having classic and modern books, plenty of options for children and teens and being a hidden gem that is perfect for gifts.

Jewella – an independent business that is perfect for people who love jewellery and fashion. Customers rate it 5 stars and saying that it is a lovely visit every time they go.

The Handmade Giftshop – A shop packed full of homemade cards and gifts for any occasion. Customers say it is fantastic, filled with treasures and lovely.



## White Rose Shopping Centre:

Flying Tiger – This Danish shop is perfect if you are looking for unique, affordable and colourful stationary and everyday essentials.

Lush – Lush creates fresh, handmade cosmetics that are cruelty-free and uses vegetarian ingredients.

Waterstones - The UK's leading bookseller, offering millions of books across all subjects.



**York:**  
The Shop That Must Not Be Named – a shop where Harry Potter fans converge in this cosy shop that carries wands, books, jewellery and other mystical and magical items.

The York Vikings – shop for people that love history and specifically the Vikings. It contains authentic Viking merchandise and other novelties.

Avorium – an award-winning stationary shop that won Retailer of the Year in the Visit York Tourism Awards 2025. They sell: notebooks, diaries, bookmarks, mugs, coasters and many other useful stationary items.



# Gifts That Sleigh: Fun and Festive Ideas for Everyone

By Ellie-Jayne Broadbent

Struggling to get your friends/family Christmas presents? You aren't alone – and we have answers.

Custom photo book of your favourite memories together

Matching friendship bracelets or necklaces

Personalized mug with an inside joke or their name

Handwritten letter or a "52 reasons I love you" jar

Luxury candle with their favourite scent

Plush blanket or heated throw

Skincare set or bath bombs

Cute slippers or fuzzy socks

Art supplies or DIY kits (painting, embroidery, pottery)

Journal or planner with stickers and pens

Cookbook or baking set if they love the kitchen

Bluetooth speaker for music lovers

Board game or card game for game nights

Movie night box with popcorn, candy, and a cozy tee

Subscription box (books, snacks, beauty, etc.)

Concert or event tickets for something you can do together



Designer perfume or makeup  
Mini projector for cozy movie nights  
Stylish handbag or jewellery  
Spa day voucher or weekend getaway  
Perfume in their signature scent  
Custom photo frame with a family picture  
Luxury robe and slippers set  
Spa gift basket with bath salts, oils, and candles  
Silk pillowcase and eye mask  
Subscription to a meditation or wellness app

# European Christmas Traditions

By Alice Kingdom



In Italy, people celebrate by celebrating La Vigilia, Epifania, decorate their homes and much more. For La Vigilia (Christmas Eve) many Italians fast during the day and eat a meatless fish-based meal in the evening. As well as this, families attend Midnight Mass at their local church after their evening meal and after having a post- mass treat of a panettone with hot chocolate. Epifania (The Epiphany) is celebrated on January 6th this is the day Christmas celebrations officially end in Italy with the arrival of La Befana, which is a witch who delivers gifts to children while riding a broomstick. Children also hang stockings for La Befana to fill with gifts or coal-like chocolate pieces for bad behavior.



In France, to celebrate Christmas people do advent, go to Christmas markets and much more. For advent French families use an advent calendar just like us in the UK. During the Christmas season, cities across France host vibrant Christmas markets selling food, decorations, and gifts. The oldest Christmas market in France is Strasbourg's which is also the most famous. Finally on Christmas Eve children leave their slippers and shoes out for Pere Noel (Santa Claus) to fill with gifts and sweets like stockings.



In Sweden during Julbord on Julafton, a large buffet is served which features Christmas ham, meatballs, pickled herring and Jansson's Temptation. Jansson's temptation is a traditional Swedish casserole made of potatoes, onions, pickled sprats, breadcrumbs and cream. After the meal, Jultomten (Santa Claus) visits homes to hand out presents.

# British Christmas traditions



## Christmas eve

Many families have special creative and sentimental traditions for Christmas eve. Some families spend Christmas eve with their families, while others use the day to recharge ready for Christmas day. Some exciting Christmas eve traditions are to go out around your area and look at the local Christmas lights and outdoor decorations.

Also, many local facilities such as churches, community centres and village halls host Christmas eve functions such as nativities for children, carol singing and choir performances. If staying at home, you could watch a festive film, hang stockings, read Christmas books or engage in some fun festive baking. Many of these things can be fun for all the family so that parents, siblings and all of the rest of the family can enjoy.



## If not celebrating...

Some ideas of things to do during the school Christmas holidays if not celebrating can be difficult to find, so there are some for you to look at;

- You could create your own traditions, such as board games or escape rooms with your family
- You could buy yourself a gift the year before, and treat yourself to opening it the year later so that you can surprise yourself with a gift later on and enjoy Christmas a different way.

By Erin O' Hanlon



## Christmas day

On Christmas day, families enjoy many joyous traditions with their families, such as opening gifts from stockings and from under the tree.

Other traditions include going to church for a traditional Christmas day service or inviting family and friends to their house for a nice cosy meal. Many people also engage in other minor traditions during their annual Christmas dinners such as Christmas crackers, Christmas jokes or small gifts to those around you. If you are alone for Christmas, you could call others online or enjoy a Christmas movie marathon, or maybe a Christmas walk. Some organisations host local Christmas dinners, or online Christmas meetings so that no one has to be alone at Christmas.



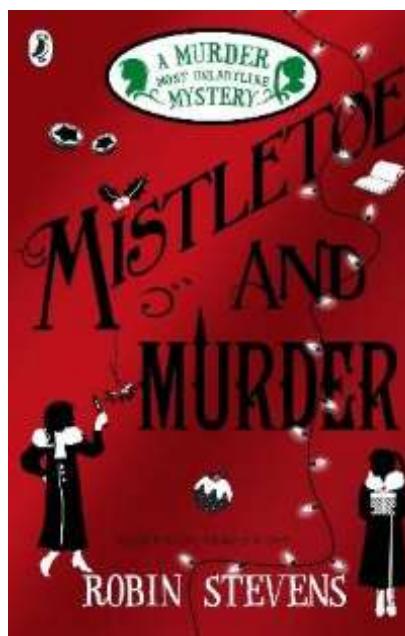
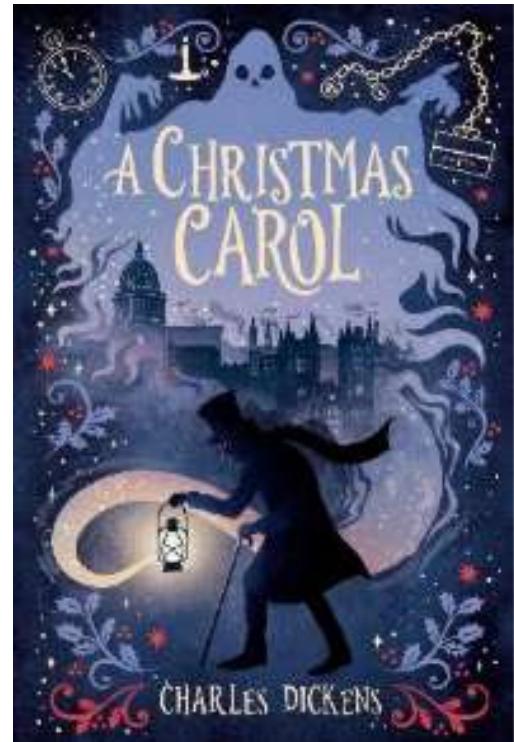
# CHRISTMAS READS

By Annie Norris and  
Daisy Gunton



A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens:

This novella is about Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly man who is visited by three ghosts on Christmas Eve—the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. It is rated a 9 and up but is perfect for any age and is studied at GCSE.



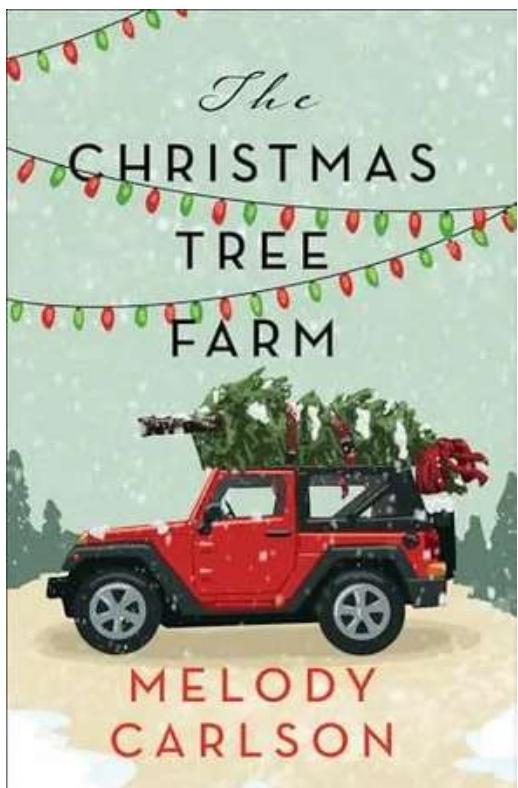
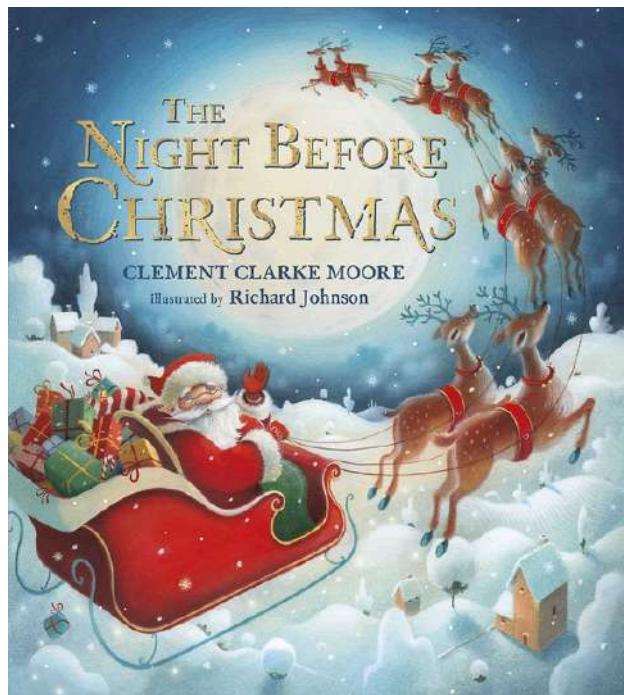
This book is about two girls named Hazel and Daisy. The girls are spending Christmas in Cambridge, but there isn't time to enjoy the snow as a gruesome accident occurs just two days before. It is rated an 11+ and is perfect for people who love mystery and historical fiction.





## The Night Before Christmas – Clement-Clarke Moore

The night before Christmas is a classic poem and Children's story about a man who wakes up on Christmas eve to find Santa Claus delivering presents.



## The Christmas Tree Farm – Melody Carlson

When Madison McDowell returns from several years teaching overseas, she is excited to pick up where she left off at her family's Christmas tree farm in Oregon

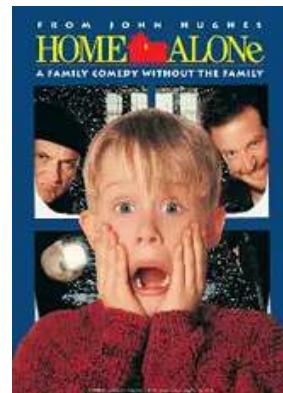


# Tinsel, treats and Tv

By Annie Norris

## Movie 1. Home Alone

Home Alone is a film about an eight-year-old boy, Kevin McCallister, who is accidentally left behind by his family and must defend his house from a pair of burglars using a variety of elaborate traps and tricks. While initially enjoying the freedom, Kevin's fun turns into a battle against the criminals, Harry and Marv, as his frantic mother tries to race home. This movie is rated a U and is a great family movie.



## Movie 2. Nativity!

This movie, a strict teacher falsely claims his ex-girlfriend, a Hollywood producer, will turn his primary school's Nativity play into a movie. The lie spirals out of control, generating festive excitement in the town as the school competes against a rival school for the best-reviewed show, all while the teacher tries to make his exaggerated story a reality.

This movie is rated a PG and is a hilarious watch!



## Movie 3. It's a wonderful life!

The main character is a man named George Bailey, a kind but discouraged man who feels his life has been a failure and wishes he'd never been born. On Christmas Eve, his despair leads to intervention by his guardian angel, Clarence Odbody, who shows George what life in his town, Bedford Falls, would be like if he had never existed. This movie is rated a U so is suitable for all ages. However, this movie is 2 hours and 10 minutes long and is in black and white (coloured version is available on certain platforms).



## Movie 4. Klaus

This movie focuses on the unlikely friendship between a selfish postman and a reclusive toymaker who together bring kindness and holiday traditions to a cold, feuding town. Jesper, the pampered son of a Postmaster General, is sent to the bleak Arctic town of Smeerensburg and, to meet his quota of letters, teams up with the toymaker, Klaus, to deliver toys to the children, which starts to melt the town's long-standing feud. This movie is rated a PG and is very heartfelt (to some it's even a bit of a tear-jerker!).

# Whisking you a Merry Christmas!

By Tavleen Sivia

Perfect Christmas cookie recipe

## Ingredients

2 cups white sugar  
1 ½ cups softened butter  
4 large eggs  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
5 cups all-purpose flour  
2 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp salt

## Instructions

Cream the butter and sugar: Beat the butter and white sugar together in a large bowl with an electric mixer until smooth.

Add wet ingredients: Beat in the eggs one at a time, then stir in the vanilla.

Combine with dry ingredients: In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt. Gradually add this dry mixture to the butter mixture, combining until a soft dough forms.

Chill the dough: Cover the dough and refrigerate for at least one hour (or overnight).

Preheat and prepare: Preheat your oven to 400°F (200°C). Lightly dust a work surface with flour.

Roll and cut: Roll the dough out to about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thickness. Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes and place them one inch apart on an ungreased baking sheet.

Bake: Bake for 6 to 8 minutes, or until the edges are lightly browned. Let the cookies cool completely on a wire rack before decorating.



# New Year, New Habits: How to Make Resolutions That Last

## Limit your resolutions.

Many people set new year's resolutions, hoping to keep them all and complete these goals throughout the year. The problem is that they set way too many!

It is so difficult to achieve anything more than ten resolutions, and more than fifteen is practically impossible. My advice is to only set 3-5 resolutions per year. Make sure that these are your most important goals, which will make the most significant change to your life at present, and maybe even help you to achieve long term goals more easily.



BY Erin O'Hanlon

# 2026

## Define your goal.

Specify what your goal involves, so you don't become lazy and find loopholes halfway through the year. To do this, you could write it down on paper and keep referring back to the exact conditions of your resolution. Throughout the year, you can keep track of your progression in your completion of your new year's resolutions. To track your progress, you could use a journal, a calendar, an online list, or any other ways of progress tracking that work for you. As you complete steps of your resolution, you can tick off your progress!

## Make your goals realistic and relevant.

Make sure that your goals are achievable in the time frame you have set (in this case, one year.) If you set goals that will take a long time, such as getting a degree, then it is extremely unlikely that you will achieve this in one year.

## Reward yourself

Acknowledge how well you have done and give yourself little treats along the way based on what you have achieved while completing your resolution. This could help to motivate you to complete your resolution.

## Enlist support

Share your goals with a trusted friend or family member who you can ask to remind you of your goal. Knowing that others know your goal could give you the necessary pressure needed to be able to complete your task.

# PREP FOR COMING BACK TO SCHOOL

By Ellie Marsh



Set your alarm (Punctual)- Make sure you are up and ready in time for school so that you can start the day with a positive start!



Pack your bag (Prepared)- Make sure you have all your equipment so you are prepared for the school day to prevent any disruption the day.



Have enough sleep the night before (Productive)- If you have enough sleep, you will be happy and refreshed for the next day so that you can have a good day.

Make sure your uniform is ready- If it isn't ready you maybe late for school since you are getting ready or cleaning it if isn't clean

# Rhaya the Rastrick Rhino!

By Alice Kingdom



## Last Christmas: The Rhino Remix:

Chapter 1: It was like any other Monday for Rhaya, and as always, she went down to the music department with her drumsticks in her hand ready for band practice. Recently they had been practicing Last Christmas by WHAM ready for the upcoming concert only a week away. The conductor of the band had already told them the piece wasn't concert ready, so she had to be on time today. Rhaya took a glimpse of her watch. Thirty-five minutes past twelve. She was five minutes late. Sprinting through the classroom, Rhaya didn't want to face the conductor.



As Rhaya ran through the room, the volume of the music became louder. Her head flooded with panic. She flung the door open. The music stopped.

“Where have you been?!” screamed the conductor. Rhaya just stood there. Silent. “We started,” he looked at his watch, “five minutes ago!”. And still Rhaya stood there frozen in front of the band. However, now she had gone bright red. The room stayed silent for the few moments that passed. Until...



**Chapter 2:** Suddenly, wisps of green, blue and purple spiraled up around Rhaya and the drum kit. Until it engulfed everything it surrounded.

“Help!” Rhaya screamed helplessly, however there was no one to help her. The only thing she could do was wait until the wisps of colour disappeared.

Then, all of a sudden, a blanket of blue filled Rhaya’s eyes blinding her with colour. Bang! Rhaya was submerged into the pool of snow that covered the floor. Rhaya brushed the snowflakes from her sleeves as she wandered deeper into the frosted clearing. She had barely stepped past the tall pines when she heard voices—warm, lively, and full of laughter. The sound drew her like music.



“Where am I?” thought Rhaya as she spotted the  
“Who are you?” asked Rhaya.

“We are the band WHAM,” answered the voice, “I’m George and this is Andrew, Shirlie and Pepsi” he continued whilst pointing out the people who the names belonged to.

Rhaya brushed the snowflakes from her sleeves as she wandered deeper into the frosted clearing. She had barely stepped past the tall pines when she heard voices—warm, lively, and full of laughter. The sound drew her like music.

George was the first to notice her. His smile lit up on the cold afternoon.  
“Hey! You’re Rhaya, right?” He called out. “We were just about to play, but we’re missing someone important.”

Andrew slung his bass over his shoulder and nodded eagerly. “We need a drummer. Our rhythm section is basically frozen stiff.”



“Pepsi added with a playful wink, “We heard you might be the perfect fit.”

Before Rhaya could even respond, Shirlie rummaged through a snow-dusted duffel bag and pulled out something small, metallic, and familiar.

“Here,” she said, handing it to Rhaya. “A hi-hat. At least... half of one.” Rhaya blinked in surprise. The cool metal felt right in her hands—right in a way she did not fully understand yet.

“This is... part of a drum kit,” she murmured. “But where are the rest of the pieces?”

George laughed. “That’s the problem! We only found the bass drum earlier. Everything else seems to have wandered off. Snow spirits, probably.” He waved vaguely at the woods.

“Or Andrew lost them,” Pepsi teased.

Andrew held up both hands. “I deny everything.”

Rhaya looked at the hi-hat, then at the friends gathered around her. A warm spark fluttered in her chest.

“Well,” she said, “we can’t play anything without a full drum kit.” Shirlie grinned. “Exactly why we were hoping you’d help us find the rest.”

Rhaya nodded. “Let’s do it.”

And so, they set off together—George leading with confident strides, Andrew and Pepsi humming a bassline that echoed through the trees, Shirlie tapping icicles as though they were piano keys, and Rhaya holding the hi-hat like a compass pointing toward something she was meant to find. Piece by piece, they would gather the music the winter had scattered.



**Chapter 3:** By the time they found the final piece of the drum kit, the snow was falling thicker—soft flakes drifting like feathers shaken from the sky. The group climbed the last hill, their boots crunching rhythmically against the frosted ground.

At the top, the world opened into a glittering blanket of white. The hill stood quiet, peaceful, and shimmering. It was the perfect place.

George planted his feet and tested the microphone they had carried up. “Alright,” he declared, “this is the spot. Let’s play it just like last Christmas.”

Andrew and Pepsi tuned their bass guitars, smiling knowingly at each other as their harmony settled into place. Shirlie brushed her fingers across the keys of her portable synth, its lights glowing gently against the snow. Rhaya assembled her drum kit—finally complete. The bass drum she’d found earlier, the hi-hat Shirlie had given her, and all the other pieces they’d collected. It felt whole. She felt whole. She tapped the hi-hat once.



Click.



The sound was crisp, clear—almost magical. Then something stirred. Wisps of purple, green, and blue rose from the snow like soft ribbons of northern light. They curled around Rhaya’s arms, swirled around her drum kit, glowing brighter with each beat she played.

The others watched in awe as the colors wrapped her in shimmering warmth. And just as suddenly as they appeared, the wisps began to fade—slowly, gently—like a breath being exhaled back into the winter sky. Rhaya looked up, her eyes wide, pulse dancing with the rhythm. Whatever this magic was, she knew one thing for certain: The music had only just begun.



## Rhaya the Rastrick Rhino!



Pulled by the lights  
Into the music  
Green, blue, purple  
The blinding lights, tragic



Surrounded by the people  
Writing Christmas hits  
Writing clever lyrics  
Words with lots of wit

Dazzling sounds  
Solving puzzles  
Trapped inside  
A Christmas bubble



Friends on a hilltop,  
Playing together  
Music and memories  
To last forever



Singing with icons  
Original songs  
Snow falls all around  
As Christmas tunes fill the air

The colours return  
The magic fades  
Back to school  
To start again

By Erin O'Hanlon



# How to draw Rhaya the Rastrick Rhino!



By Erin O'Hanlon



Step One: First draw a Christmas hat and the outline of the Rhino head.

Step Two: Then draw the body, feet and scarf.



Step three: Next draw on the Rhino's ears and facial features

Step four: Colour in and add details!

There you go- your own Rhaya the Rastrick Rhino!





## On this silent night...

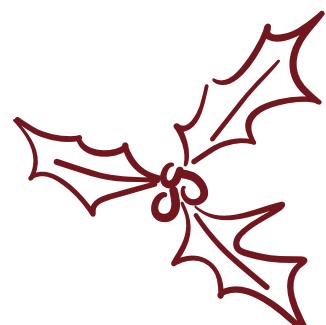
Frost on the windows  
Snow on the streets  
As the icy wind blows  
And we bake Christmas treats

Sleighbells are rung  
And trees are adorned  
Tinsel is hung  
As we await Christmas morn

Carolers sing  
Jolly Christmas tunes  
Hear the church bells ring  
Banishing all gloom

Fire crackles warm  
Loved ones hold us tight  
Sheltered from the snow storm  
On this silent night

By Annie Norris



# The Science Ghost

## Chapter 1

By Senna Stott

"Now remember everybody," firmly explained Mr Lactose (yes, he is lactose intolerant if you ask), "Do not mix bleach and ammonia, highly NOT recommended for health..."

Rico and Mia were in a science lab one very cold autumn afternoon just before Halloween break. Mr Lactose was letting them mix some chemicals with their partners.

"Mia, let's mix... soap and water!!!!!!" Rico exclaimed.

"Yeah, I wonder what that's gonna make?"

"Are you being sarcastic?"

"What do you think?"

"Um.... I think you are being serious!"



Mia sighs so loud Mr Lactose must tell her to stop yawning and get on with her work! They mix soap and water together and something weird happens... Something out of the ordinary you could say...

"The soap-water mixture is white?" Mia gasps, "But the soap bar was pink!"

"Meh, pretty boring if you ask me." Rico said miming yawning.

<sup>^</sup>Mia doesn't pay attention to Rico's attitude, "Weird..."

What Mia didn't find was the little ghost that escaped from that mixture, his name was Tim... Yeah not very 'scary' but with his big eyes, perfect tail and small, curved mouth, he did look quite cute. Tim had one very important goal to achieve...

"Wrap up your chemical mixes now! Bells going in 30 seconds!!!!!!!!!!!!" Mr Lactose yelled across the classroom. Bit rude to interrupt the very handsome narrator of the story! As I was saying... He had one very important goal to achieve in his life. Or afterlife? To make friends.

## Chapter 2

"AAAAAAARRRRHHHHHHH!"

"What. Was. That?" Rico questioned, "I think it came from the DT department"

"Let's find out then." Mia replied.

"Wait!" Rico yelled. Mia turned.

"Seriously?"

"I need to finish my jelly and peanut butter sandwich!"

"Jelly and peanut butter sandwich?! That's horrid!" Mia mimed throwing up.

"No!" Rico exclaimed, "It's nice!"

That scream was Tim trying to make a friend by, in a year 7's DT class, helping them with their hand-embroidery...

awwwwwwwwwwwww....

...but then he instead scared them.

It's like these kids have never seen a ghost before...

Anyways, Mia and Rico where racing through the English block towards the DT department.

"Why are we running!?" Rico managed to gasp.

"Because we only have 5 minutes left of the school day!"

"Really!? Time flies dunnit?"

"Yeah..." Mia distantly said, "Right turn!"

"Wah?"

"Right turn!"

"Ha! How did I almost miss that massive sign!"

"I wonder"

Bring! The bell had gone, and students filled the corridors.

That is a very boring school bell. Can't it be more like... An Eminem rap? That'd be cool, you better lose yourself in the music, the moment, you own it, you better never let it go. You only get one shot, do not miss your chance to blow. This opportunity comes once in a lifetime...

"Woah, excuse me, sorry!" Mia exclaimed as she ran through all the children filling the corridors.

Rico was munching and his peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Mmmmmmm... That sounds nice... I'm hungry now!

Rico manged to muffle; "Oh hi Max! How did that footy tournament go?" while jelly spilled out his mouth.

The duo finally arrived at the DT classroom where the scream had come from. Inside Tim was floating on a chair, lonely and slumped.

"What..." Mia started.

"...The jelly and peanut butter sandwich?"

Mia turned to face Rico, "Seriously."

"What?"

"Jelly and peanut butter sandwich."

"It's delicious."

"Sure buddy."



## Chapter 3

Tim looked up and saw Mia and Rico peeking through the door.

"Oh no." Mia whispered.

Tim stood... He would float... hovered above the chair and ascended gradually. Suddenly he jolted and speed-flew across the room and through the door, zooming down the corridor. Mia started to chase but Rico held her back.

"I only started athletics last week!"

"Why is that relevant to chasing a ghost in a school?"

"Because chasing equals running."

"So?!"

"HAVE YOU SEEN THE SIZE OF THIS SCHOOL!!!!"

"Fair point, but he's getting away!"

"I can never win, can I?" Rico solemnly claimed.

An electric wizz fizzed through the school. That can't be good right?

The lights had gone out. Ooohh I'm scared of the dark!

Rico yelped: "In the dark! Chasing a ghost in the dark! Not very appealing if you ask me!"

"Well deal with it!" Mia grasped her phone and turned on the flashlight, "Something just grabbed my arm!"

"That was me."

"Phew."

Mia started running with Rico being dragged along.

"That ghost just spun into the Math block!" Mia shouted.

"According to my calculations... it actually turned into the English department."

Amazing montage time! They weaved in and out of departments and blocks! English, Science, Math, MFL, ICT and Geography until they reached History...

Boof! Tim had hit a classroom door with Mia and Rico right behind him. Mia glared the phone light into Tim's face making him squint.

"A real ghost..." Mia trailed off in shock. Yes, a real ghost! You are staring right at it Mia!

Tim turned away.

"It's ok little guy; we are not here to hurt you..."

Tim turned to face them his little eyes full of wonder.

"All we are going to ask..." Mia was interrupted by Rico.

"What did you say we were going to ask? You never said anything about this!"

"We are going to ask you to follow us, ok?" Mia carried on ignoring Rico.



Tim did a timid nod.

Mia started walking toward the bathrooms. What is she going to do in the bathrooms?

Then they turned into the headteachers office. Mr Demity... How am I even supposed to say that?... was still there.

"Oh, hello there Mia and Rico, what do you need?"

"We have come to ask if this little ghost..."

"I'm going to name him Tim." Rico interrupted.

"Fine, if Tim can make some friends in school?"

Trying to have a soft voice Mr Demity replied with: "And how are you planning to do this?"

"By exposing students to him"

"How?"

"He can come to the team football matches maybe?"

Mr Demity scratched his chin, "Since it's a ghost it may scare the year 7's"

This guy has common sense

"Yes, but he could be..."

"THE SCHOOL MASCOT!!!" Rico blurted.

"Yes!" Mia shouted. Take a chill pill guys

"I suppose that could work..." Mr Demity said.

Time for the epilogue! Read by your charming narrator.



## Epilogue

Tim the ghost became the mascot through hard times like when the rugby team faced Lion academy and high times when the gymnastics team won the county league.

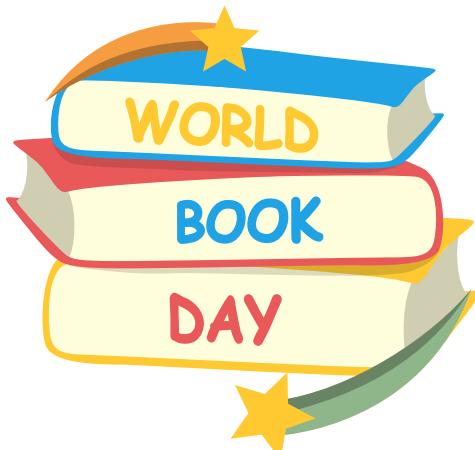
Tim kept on cheering through countless expelled students and fired staff. All the students loved him all the way through until 6th form. Legend has it he is still cheering to this day.

# English Ambassadors

By Hannah Paget

English Ambassadors have been working very hard on many different projects. These projects range from competitions to world book day. The English ambassadors are aged 12-16 and have a passion and talent for the subject.

They meet regularly with Miss Peel and Miss Chadwick who help them with starting ideas and keeping everything organized.



English ambassadors are working on organising multiple events for Shakespeare Day, World poetry day and many other events. Fun competitions will take place later in the year since they are planning those too. English ambassadors are trying to make English fun for everyone whilst also making everything educational and beneficial for tests such as GCSEs

**WORLD BOOK DAY PLANS:**  
World book day will be here before we know it. If you have been at school for a previous world book day, you will know that each department chooses a theme, and staff will have the option to dress up. For example, last year the History department dressed up as the Wizard of Oz, the math's department dressed up as Alice in Wonderland and the English department dressed up as literary villains!



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